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The theatre collection in the Barr Smith library

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University of Adelaide

LIBRARY NEWS



UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE LIBRARY NEWS

Volume 7 Number 1
June 1985

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THE THEATRE COLLECTION IN THE BARR SMITH LIBRARY

The University has a tradition of interest in theatre, through the activities of its Theatre Guild, the setting up of the Drama Department in 1975 and the involvement of literature departments in the study of drama and the production of plays.

The Barr Smith Library's Theatre Collection can only be described as a general collection covering primarily the areas of legitimate theatre, musical theatre, ballet, folklore and biography. Most of the Library's monographs and periodicals relating to the performing arts are incorporated in the Main Collection on the open shelves to cater for daily use.

All this increased interest in theatre at the University has made the Library aware of the lacunae in its Collection, but financial constraints have made it difficult for the Library to collect comprehensively in this area. However, it has been fortunate over the years in obtaining a number of bequests such as the small collection of Miss Patricia Hackett in 1964, and in particular, the Allan Wilkie - Frediswyde Hunter-Watts Theatre Collection bequeathed to the Library in 1976 by Miss Angel Symon. This Collection has gradually been supplemented and strengthened by the Library's special purchases, as well as by a valuable collection of souvenir theatre programmes collected in London from 1898 to 1908 by the late Mrs Louise Saunders and donated in 1979 by her daughter, Mrs Sarah Pritchard of Collinswood. Furthermore, we have also added a good part of the Allan Wilkie Library and have since bought a substantial collection of Samuel French acting editions to expand the Allan Wilkie - Frediswyde Hunter-Watts Theatre Collection. The Library has also purchased a small theatre collection from the Kraus-Thompson Organization and placed part of it with the Theatre Collection and the rest on the open shelves. Special Collections has a considerable amount of archival material from the University's Theatre Guild, and also houses a collection of local theatre scripts from the Margaret Day Library at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

MISS ANGEL SYMON

Miss Angel Symon was born in Adelaide in 1896, the daughter of Sir Josiah Symon, one of the drafters of the Australian constitution, and Lady Elenore Symon. The Symon family is well known in Adelaide for its support of and gifts to libraries. In the 1970s the Library received a large collection of theatre programmes, many of them annotated, from the Symon family.

Correspondence between Miss Angel Symon and the University began as early as 1948, and when she died in 1976 her will had not yet been finalized. In her will she stipulated that the Collection be known as the Allan Wilkie - Frediswyde Hunter-Watts Theatre Collection in memory of the well known actor Allan Wilkie and his second wife Frediswyde Hunter-Watts with whom Angel Symon enjoyed a close friendship over many years. The Wilkies toured Australia between 1916 and 1931, eventually managing their own Shakespearian Company. Miss Symon wanted her Collection to be kept

together as a reference collection in a special room, available for browsing under supervision. The Library was therefore obliged to pay special regard to accommodating and organizing the Collection and could not disperse it in the Main Collection. Miss Symon also expressed in her will the wish that the University permit her sister, Mrs Mary Arden Clark, to keep whatever portion of the Collection she desired, and she has decided to retain some books and other materials at her residence for the remainder of her lifetime.

However, the bulk of the Collection, comprising approximately 4,000 volumes covering all aspects of the theatre and some 200 years of theatrical history, as well as newspaper clippings, theatre programmes, playbills, postcards and photographs of theatrical personalities, was transferred to the Library. Miss Symon collected books and other material related to the theatre throughout her life and during her many visits to England and Europe, especially during the 1920s. The Collection has been assessed as a valuable source for theatre and drama research because of its international scope with special importance being placed on its uniqueness and the quantity and range of press clippings. Apart from the Dennis Wolanski Library at the Sydney Opera House, other theatre collections in Australia specialise in Australian or State material.

Between a third and a half of the material is duplicated in the Main Collection. About 25% of the Collection has been retained by Mrs Mary Clark at her home in Echunga. It comprises books, and a good deal of the ephemera and memorabilia, such as Mrs Garrick's wedding apron, posters, prints, programmes, albums of photographs and playbills, as well as non-Australian press clippings arranged in chronological sequence.

The strengths of the Collection are English theatre of the period ca. 1890 - ca. 1940; biographies of the English actors of the period; works related to the Ellen Terry and Henry Irving families; stage presentations of Shakespeare and biographical works on his life rather than straight criticism.

Books on costume and ballet are included, with works by the ballet critics Cyril W. Beaumont and Arnold R. Haskell. There are also books on the Borovansky Australian Ballet Company, and rare and exquisite books on the Ballets Russes and the costume designs of Léon Bakst.

Periodicals form a valuable and important part of this Collection, with titles such as Play Pictorial (1902-1939), Theatre Arts (1916-1964), Theatre World (1925-1965), and Dancing Times (1913-1960) to name a few.

The Collection includes 1,000 plays in acting editions. Play-texts include those published by French and Dick's Standard Plays during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There are also the prompt books of Mrs Patrick Campbell.

A number of items come within the rare book category, for example, Ferguson items, pre 1801 imprints, and very limited editions. David E. Bandmann's An actor's tale: 70 thousand miles with Shakespeare, inscribed by the author, is a copy of the first edition for which Ferguson recorded only one location, The National Library of Australia.

ALLAN WILKIE LIBRARY

The acquisition by the Library in 1982 of 5 boxes of material from the Allan Wilkie Library relating to his career in theatre, and in particular to the period he spent in Australia has complemented and enriched our Theatre Collection. The Library has this material thanks to Mr F.H. Mares, Reader in English, Miss Vida Russell, also of the Department of English and Mrs Kate Wilkie, Mr Allan Wilkie's widow. Mr Mares interrupted his study leave in Scotland in 1981 in order to follow up a lead to the surviving books and papers of Mr Allan Wilkie, and then Miss Vida Russell negotiated acquisition of the Wilkie Collection for the Barr Smith Library during her long-service leave later that year. The Allan Wilkie Library includes a small collection of books, papers, annotated scripts and memorabilia collected between 1917 and 1969, as well as a typed copy of his autobiography, All the world is a stage, with a preface by Ngaio Marsh. The collecting areas of the Allan Wilkie Library are similar to those of the Allan Wilkie - Frediswyde Hunter-Watts Theatre Collection, although there are some books on Australian and New Zealand theatre history.

The Allan Wilkie - Frediswyde Hunter-Watts Theatre Collection and material from the Allan Wilkie Library has now been fully catalogued thanks to a generous donation of \$10,000 by Mrs Mary Clark in 1983 and the doubling of this sum by The University Foundation. It has been added to the Australian Bibliographic Network and to the Barr Smith Library's on-line catalogue, BIBLION. A printed catalogue is also envisaged which would make the Collection known internationally. Many researchers have already shown keen interest in the Collection and further interest is expected as the Collection is included in directories of performing arts collections in Australia. The Collection will be accommodated in the Old Rare Book Room of the Library and administered as part of the Library's Special Collections. The items will not be available for loan and any rare items will remain in the Rare Book Room in Special Collections. Difficulties have arisen from the terms of Miss Symon's bequest and the actual management of the Collection according to her known or assumed wishes. Up until now no space was available to display the ephemera and memorabilia. All in all the Library has tried to follow what was thought to be her intentions, as expressed in her will, within certain constraints of space and money.

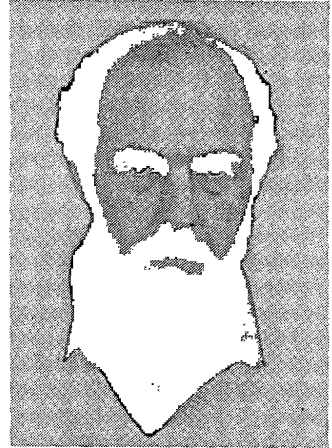
Elizabeth Naumczyk

An item from the Theatre Collection is featured on the cover of this issue.

USER SERVICES - PROFILES

GORDON ABBOTT

Gordon Abbott was appointed to the position of Music/Audiovisual Librarian in the Barr Smith Library in September 1983 after working in a similar position at the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane. Prior to that he was a tutor in piano at the Adelaide College of Advanced Education and a tutor in the Music Department at Flinders University of S.A.



In his present position he is responsible for all aspects of music and audiovisual library services in the Library and teaches music bibliography in the Faculty of Music.

Gordon began tertiary study at the New South Wales State Conservatorium of Music and subsequently graduated from Flinders University with a first class honours degree in musicology. He also holds a postgraduate diploma in librarianship from Canberra College of Advanced Education. Gordon is currently vice president of the Australian Branch of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres and editor of Continuo, the half-yearly journal of IAML, as well as Chairman of the Répertoire International des Sources Musicales (RISM) in Australia. He has also worked with electronic music, sound recording and the production of audiovisual materials.

Since October 1984 he has been the University's Representative on the Users' Committee of the State Film and Video Library of South Australia.

Any enquiries relating to music or audiovisual material should be directed to Gordon Abbott in the Eastern Gallery on Level 3 of the Library or by telephone on extension number 5489.

RECENT LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

The Library is continually adding valuable research material to its collection. In many cases this is purchased from Literary Equipment funds which are additional funds distributed to academic departments by the Library Committee from an allocation given by the Equipment Sub-Committee. Only certain categories of material can be purchased using Literary Equipment funds, including large expensive items such as back sets of periodicals or collections of library materials.

Major library acquisitions in 1984 included the British Library. Department of Manuscripts. Index of Manuscripts in the British Library (B/011.31/B8591). This is an amalgamated index to the various catalogues of the manuscript collections of the British Library, including the twenty-two Catalogues of Additions published between 1843 and 1979, the catalogues of the Arundel, Burney, Cotton, Hargrave, Harley, Royal, King's, Lansdowne, Sloan and Stowe manuscripts, and the Charters. It also indexes the Ashley and Yates Thompson manuscripts for which there are catalogues in preparation. The Index will be complete in twelve volumes and will be continually updated. It will be a valuable reference tool for scholars using manuscript material, particularly as the Library is purchasing microfilm sets of several of the collections indexed. The Tudor and Stuart manuscripts from the Harleian Collection are in the process of being microfilmed (MICROFILM PER 34), and the Library is also purchasing microfilm copies of the manuscript collections of other major libraries. These include such valuable collections as the sixteenth and seventeenth century manuscripts from the Rawlinson Collection held in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (MICROFILM PER 83).

Another recent acquisition for the Library is the En't'siklopedicheski'i Slovar' (03/E607/RB), one of the few copies of this valuable Russian encyclopedia in Australia. Published between 1890 and 1904, comprising forty-one volumes in eighty-two, this is the last edition published before the Communist Revolution and provides a unique insight into the world view of the Czarist regime. The Library has been searching for many years for a copy of this encyclopedia through our exchange partners in Russia, but a copy was eventually found locally. The encyclopedia is housed in Special Collections.

With the purchase of the microfiche edition of Great Britain. Parliament. Parliamentary Papers: 1801-1900 (MICROFICHE PER 11), and the permanent loan from the Parliamentary Library of the Parliamentary Papers for the period 1901-1949 (328.4206/G798pp), the Library now has a complete set of the British Parliamentary Papers. The microfiche edition for the period 1801-1900 replaces the microcard edition, the quality of which was very poor, and an index to the new edition is planned. The hard copy for the period 1901-1949 is temporarily held in closed access until the removal of other material to the Store provides enough space to enable it to be placed on the open shelves. Library staff have prepared a bibliography, Australian and British Parliamentary Publications, listing our holdings in these areas. Copies may be obtained from the Information Desk.

Another area in which the Library has extended its holdings is in research material related to World War II. This is an area in which the History Department has an interest, and as material is now being released by the governments concerned, the Library has been able to purchase microfilm copies for research purposes. These include: Conditions and Politics in Occupied Western Europe (MICROFILM PER 16); The German Army High Command, 1938-1945 (MF 17915-17918); U.S.A. Department of State. Confidential U.S. Diplomatic Post Records, Japan, 1930-41 (MICROFILM PER 78); and U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. Records, 1942-53 (MF 17817-17858).

Other microfilm sets purchased on the recommendation of the Department of History in 1984 include: U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam, 1954-75 (MF 17919-17939); U.S. Military Intelligence Reports, China, 1911-41 (MICROFILM PER 87); and Vietnam and South-East Asia: Special Studies, 1960-1980 (MICROFILM PER 86).

Liz Lee

WOMEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, 1885-1985

An exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the first woman graduate of the University, Edith Emily Dornwell, B.Sc., is currently on display in the Barr Smith Library.

In December 1885 Edith Dornwell (1865-1943) became not only the first woman graduate of the University of Adelaide, but also the first person to be admitted to its degree of Bachelor of Science by examination, passing with first class honours in physiology and physics.

After gaining a first class pass in the Matriculation Examination of December 1882, she was encouraged to undertake the science degree course by E.C. Stirling, then Lecturer in Human Physiology and subsequently the first Professor of Physiology. Stirling had been the examiner for matriculation physiology and for the Sir Thomas Elder Prize for Physiology also won by Dornwell in December 1882.

As an undergraduate during the years 1883-85 she gained first class passes in each year of her degree course. At the Commemoration Ceremony of 16 December 1885 the Chancellor noted that 'in the manner in which she had taken that degree she had not merely done honour to the University, but she had vindicated the right of her sex to compete, and to compete on equal terms with other undergraduates for the honours and distinctions of that University.'



Edith Emily Dornwell 1865—1943
B.Sc. 1885

Undoubtedly Edith Dornwell's success did prompt other females to enter the University as undergraduates. Between 1886 and 1895 twelve more women graduated, seven as Bachelors of Science. Fifty years later Edith Dornwell recalled that the professors and students 'evinced no objection to the presence of a woman among them, and without exception did their best to make my position easy and comfortable.'

The exhibition will be on display in the Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Level 4, Research Services Wing, until the end of June.

Liz Lee

JANUARY IN PARIS: SNOW, PORCELAIN AND LIBRARIES

It was my pleasure and privilege to have participated at the beginning of this year in a four week residential course at the Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques (C.I.E.P.) at Sèvres, on the outskirts of Paris.

The C.I.E.P. offers a wide range of classes, lectures, activities and documentation on all aspects of French culture and also provides a forum for discussion of the latest methods in teaching French as a foreign language. The C.I.E.P. is housed in a very fine 18th century building in which Madame de Pompadour, mistress of Louis XV, had established the famous Sèvres porcelain factory.

The day-time trainees at the C.I.E.P. were predominantly French whereas the resident trainees, numbering about 120, were French teachers from practically every corner of the world. Our Australian group consisted of 26 members, eleven of whom were French teachers. The rest were either university students or came from various professions. The objective of this minority was to undertake a project of professional or academic interest which would allow them to establish French contacts in their respective fields. Each participant was assigned a tutor who guided the research and made appointments with the appropriate professional counterparts.

As the subject of my project I chose to look at libraries. Although I was primarily interested in the circulation aspect of university libraries, I requested and was given the opportunity to visit a wide range of libraries.

THE BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE

Heading the impressive number of library institutions in Paris is the Bibliothèque Nationale, founded in 1527 by François I, with twelve million books and a staff of 250. The Bibliothèque Nationale is a library of consultation, meant for research only, and its users must have at least a higher degree. The approach is not exactly simple; you first present a request form to be allocated a seat (only a limited number being available, it is a good idea to queue up early), then you fill out the request form for your book and then you wait for an hour at least before the book is brought to your table. Behind the majestic outside façade and the magnificent pomposity of the two reading rooms (one for monographs and one for periodicals) miles of congested shelves of musty books are tucked away in a penumbral maze. Only part of the collection is located on the spot; the bulk is in a giant store at Versailles, paging from which takes 24 hours. Security is remarkably strict; not only bags, but also overcoats and umbrellas have to be left at the cloak-room and corridors between the various sections of the stacks are barred by doors.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

There are some twenty university libraries in Paris. The various écoles (faculties) are scattered over a wide area around the Boulevard Saint Michel and each école has its own small library. The one I visited, the Bibliothèque de l'Université de Paris, Pierre et Marie Curie, Faculté de Médecine Saint Antoine, was disappointingly small (10,000 books servicing 1,500 users) and offered no useful comparison with the operations of the Barr Smith Library. Opening hours are from 10am to 6pm! This seems to be the case with most of the university libraries and so students tend to seek refuge in the centrally located Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève, open until 10pm, which enjoys the peculiar status of being a university library open to the public. It is a consultation library only, with a collection of three million books, but with a capacity of only 700 seats.

Of the university libraries in Paris, the Saint Antoine is among the first six which have started to computerise their borrower file. The switch-over to computerised cataloguing is also still in its infant stage, however, the integration of the catalogues of all university libraries is planned for the end of 1986.

An interview was arranged for me at the Direction des Bibliothèques (the French Library Board), where I was introduced to the training of cataloguers from those university libraries which are currently in the process of converting their card catalogues to machine readable form. Upon invitation, and much to my amusement, I found myself contributing to the switch-over job by keying in a few records.

Inspecting libraries was certainly interesting and stimulating, but only a fraction of my time in Paris was spent on it. Lectures at the C.I.E.P., organised tours in Paris and in the countryside, social life in Sèvres, theatre and concerts, even such an unexpected thrill as an impromptu invitation to observe ballet classes at the Paris Opera Ballet School (established 1672 by Lulli) ... there were so many fascinating and challenging temptations - indeed it was a hard decision, what to select and what to renounce. Skipping lunch-time meals - admittedly a sacrifice since the C.I.E.P. staff took pride in their genuine homestyle French cooking - gained some additional time for me to make optimal use of my free museum pass. (I particularly recommend the Porcelain Museum at Sèvres.)

Silvia Lang

ON COMPARING ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: OKLAHOMA AND ADELAIDE

Although I have been in Australia less than two months, on study leave from the U.S.A., it is readily apparent that the library where I work, the University of Oklahoma Libraries in Norman, Oklahoma, and the Barr Smith Library here at the University of Adelaide, have more in common than they do not have in common. The university library is the central scholarly resource of the institution and is an essential contributor to excellence in teaching and research. Since achievement of academic excellence is the goal of any university, librarians must carefully plan and organize the collections, services and staffing to support the academic effort. While I can see differences in the various stages of development of the libraries' systems, by examining the two libraries I know best, one in Norman, the other in Adelaide, it is my conclusion that both libraries are representative of worldwide trends in academic librarianship and are pursuing a common goal.

RESOURCES

Both the University of Oklahoma Libraries and the Barr Smith Library have had substantial increases in their total operating budget over the last twenty years. Yet inflation, increases in publishing costs, and the general competition for funds in the total university system have continued to erode the technological developments and the purchasing power of our libraries. The good years are definitely over. In 1984 the Oklahoma Libraries suffered the second substantial cut in serials subscriptions. The Barr Smith Library has gone through similar exercises and has been forced to cut periodical subscriptions on four occasions during the past six years. Many scholars believe that it is the mark of the better libraries that acquisitions budgets be maintained even in difficult times. Thus the University of Oklahoma has begun an ambitious endowment plan to augment university financial support. Foundations, federal, state and private agencies are pursued to support special library projects. Australian academic libraries, on the other hand, depend primarily on government support.

PERSONNEL AND SERVICES

A paramount goal is to have sufficient numbers of qualified personnel to develop, organize, maintain and provide access to the collections and to the information services. The University of Oklahoma Libraries have been chronically understaffed for many years. The collection count is at the two million mark, and with a number of branch libraries and special collections both inside and outside the main library facility, staffing is sparse. The Barr Smith Library also has experienced personnel reductions and recently has shifted professional staff from the technical area to reader services. This shifting of librarians to the public sector also is a trend in U.S. academic libraries. As libraries become more automated and share more resources, fewer professional staff can be spared in the technical area. However, one major difference between the U.S.A. and Australian libraries is the use in the former of student library assistants, who, on a part-time basis, do much of the routine work of the university library. These student assistants must be hired, trained, and supervised, and thus professionally trained librarians are thrust, sometimes immediately after library school, into supervisory roles.

Service to faculty and students may be diminished when librarians are forced to take up these managerial responsibilities.

COLLECTIONS

A major goal of university libraries is to build and maintain a collection of resources sufficient in scope and quality to support the university's instructional and research programmes. The University of Oklahoma Libraries began its Collection Development Study in 1980. It has been a painfully slow exercise for a variety of reasons. However, a collection development policy will be formulated from this study to identify areas of strength and/or prominence in the collections in order to aid the donation and endowment programmes. This, in turn, will help attract outstanding faculty and talented graduate and undergraduate students to the University. The Barr Smith Library also has set up a Collection Development Committee that is expected to develop an overall collection development policy in the future and to make recommendations for improving the method of distribution of funds for purchasing. It is my understanding that university librarians in Australia will soon be meeting to assign collection levels and areas of collecting responsibilities. This systematic, coordinated process of collection building will help to build quality libraries in both of our countries.

TECHNOLOGY

As academic research libraries look to the future, computer-based library informational, bibliographical, and operational systems are being rigorously pursued in both the U.S.A. and Australia. Inevitably, part of tomorrow's research library is the on-line catalogue in the context of an integrated automated system. How successful academic libraries will be depends on the development and availability of the systems, the monetary resources which can be allocated to them and management leadership in individual libraries. The emergence of the National Library in Canberra as a major resource and as a leader for Australian libraries, and also the rapid development of the Australian Bibliographic Network and the commitment to it by the major libraries, means that Australia has the potential to bypass the U.S.A. in capturing and identifying the nation's bibliographic resources.

CONCLUSION

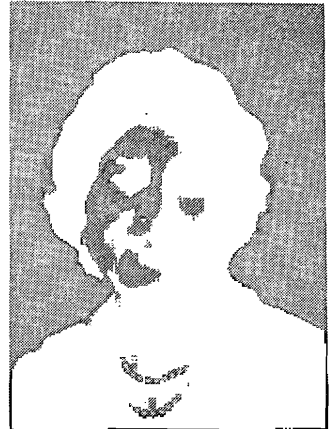
A picture has emerged of pioneering advancement in Australian and American academic libraries in the last ten years, although frustrated at times by lack of resources. Certain features of Australian society and environment, the great geographical distances between the main population centres and the comparatively small number of academic libraries in the nation, have contributed to cooperation and resource sharing. On the other hand, the scarcity of resources in U.S.A. academic libraries has provided an impetus for renewed discussions on cooperative arrangements. In the years ahead I hope to see these positive changes in the operations of academic libraries, plus more resources to effect these changes.

Jeanne G. Howard
Visiting Librarian from the
University of Oklahoma

USER SERVICES - PROFILES

SILVIA LANG

Silvia Lang joined the staff of the Barr Smith Library in 1970 as a clerical assistant in charge of recruiting part-time casual staff at a time when the heavy use of student assistants and adult assistants was still a feature in all departments of the Library. Silvia's main duties were the formulation of a very fragmented part-time roster, calculating the weekly wages and acting as a liaison between the casual staff and the department heads.



As the number of student assistants decreased, Silvia's activities became more orientated towards circulation services. After passing the Library Assistants' Course in 1976, she was appointed as a Library Assistant in 1978. In her present position she is sharing with Stella Nemeth the responsibility of supervising the operations of the staff at the Loans Desk. She is especially concerned with attending to users' enquiries, problems and complaints.

Silvia has lived in Australia for the past 35 years. In the long span of her working life she has gathered a wide variety of experiences, ranging from working as a travel guide while still a student at the University of Vienna, being employed in 1947 as an interpreter by the French Occupation Power in Vienna, to a six month spell in 1958 as a multilingual telephonist with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

THE PACIFIC WAY

Towards the end of 1984 Ms Susan Blackwell, Senior Librarian, Reference, of the Flinders University Library of South Australia and I were successful in being invited by the IDP (International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges) to the University of the South Pacific (USP) Library for a period of six weeks to undertake general library duties under the direction of the University Librarian, Ms Esther W. Williams.

The USP Library has the difficult role of serving the USP community and also the South Pacific region, acting as a regional 'national' library and supporting the University Centre libraries in the South Pacific region where USP courses are taught. The Library is involved not only in collection development and preservation of its resources on the South Pacific but also services the entire South Pacific region. USP Library staff are called away from their tasks at the USP Library to assist and visit Centre libraries, to train library personnel in the region, to offer professional assistance and to collect publications from various sources in the region. Our visits were aimed to alleviate some of these staff shortages.

CYCLONES ERIC AND NIGEL

The USP Library has 267,000 volumes of which 20,687 are Pacific Collection volumes. The Pacific Collection also has 2,252 maps and 335 charts. My arrival in Suva was the day after cyclone Eric had struck. The Library sustained water damage to books estimated at F\$100,000 after it lost part of its roof during the cyclone and 12,000 volumes of the Pacific Collection received the most damage. An article called 'Pages in peril' in the Sunday Times (Suva) further stated that '...repairing of the Library room will cost about \$40,000 and replacing the water-soaked furniture (mostly reading tables) is going to cost another \$11,000'.

The Library closed for two weeks, from 18 January to 1 February, and during this time we witnessed the moving of the Pacific Collection to the ground floor in the former in-process books area and the transfer of the in-process books upstairs. No power meant lifts were not operational and a staff of 55 plus 20 volunteers were involved in the move up and down six flights of stairs. Cyclone Nigel and a later heavy downpour caused further damage and a loss of another 1,000 volumes of the Pacific Collection. 505 rare volumes were damaged and can only be saved by ridding them of mould by thymol fumigation. The Library is seeking funds for the installation of a micrographic unit to store valuable and deteriorating material on microfiche. A new library building is being planned to be completed by 1986 which is to be funded by Australian aid.

SOUTH PACIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

After being introduced to Library staff at USP, I spent the first few days helping with the transfer of books and selecting a project to work on during

my six week stay at the Library. I decided to assign DDC 19 (the 19th edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification) to the entries catalogued using LCC (Library of Congress Classification) and LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) for inclusion in the 1984 South Pacific Bibliography.

The first two years of the South Pacific Bibliography for 1981 and 1982 were produced by USP Library staff in the Cataloguing Department. In 1983 the Library established a Pacific Information Centre (PIC) which coordinates, collects and disseminates information on the South Pacific region and is funded by IDRC (the International Development Research Centre) while the National Library of Australia provides free computer searches and reference books for the USP Library. PIC has funded the 1983 publication of the South Pacific Bibliography by enabling the Library to contract a cataloguer on a part-time basis.

Although the entries to which I had to assign DDC 19 were already catalogued using LCC and LCSH this did not assist me greatly since Dewey is completely different to LCC. It involved my reclassifying the same entries and consulting and reading the items in the Pacific Collection to ascertain the correct Dewey classification. At times work proved difficult if not impossible when items needed for consultation were missing from the Pacific Collection because they had sustained water damage, or reference works were not available in the Library. About 10% of the entries I classified could be located in the National Union Catalogue, the Australian National Bibliography or had Cataloguing in Publication data. However, many of these entries were classified using DDC 18 and needed to be adjusted. I am in agreement with the statement in the Library's 1984 Annual report which states that being connected to the Australian Bibliographic Network would not greatly assist the cataloguing of the Pacific Collection. Pacific Collection material involves mostly original cataloguing since a good part of the Collection includes theses, conference proceedings and both published and unpublished items unique to the Pacific region which are not in the ABN database.

"During the year the cataloguing section also underwent a testing project of inputting Pacific data into the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) based in Canberra. About 300 items were catalogued using ABN procedures. This project was abandoned because of the labour intensive routine of the work and less than 13% of the items were found in the ABN database." USP. Library. Annual report, 1984, p.14.

The South Pacific Bibliography superseded the Pacific Collection Accession List of the University of the South Pacific Library and includes published and unpublished material relating to the region, 'whether originating in the region or published outside the region.' It includes entries from the Pacific Collection at the USP Library, the South Pacific Commission Library and other regional libraries. I completed assigning DDC 19 to 515 entries out of a total of 770 entries for the 1984 publication from the Pacific Collection at the USP Library. My contribution to the 1984 South Pacific Bibliography

should bring forward the date of publication and make available to interested users information concerning materials on the Pacific 'and indigenous peoples in Australia, Hawaii and New Zealand.'

PACIFIC LIFE

My working experience in Fiji using the Pacific Collection and living in the tropics among a multicultural society provided me with an invaluable knowledge and awareness of the Pacific way of life and its cultures, as well as its political, economic and social problems. I experienced not only the cyclone season but also political unrest in the Pacific when my flight on 12 January from Sydney was delayed because a state of emergency was declared in Noumea and the airport was seized by the militant Kanaks fighting for independence from French rule.

I wish to thank particularly the University Librarian of the University of the South Pacific, Ms Esther Williams, as well as commend her staff on their hospitality even when they themselves were under trying conditions. Finally, I am indebted to the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges, the University of Adelaide and its Librarian, Mr Eric Wainwright, for providing me with the opportunity to work at USP Library and allowing me to meet such a young, interesting and professionally active Library staff as well as other members of the USP community and visitors to the USP Library from the South Pacific region. I am sure the knowledge gained will prove useful in my professional work as subject librarian and has provided me with a deeper appreciation of our own Pacific Collection in the Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide.

Elizabeth Naumczyk

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HISTORY SUBJECT LIBRARIAN

Ms Pamela Mathews, B.A., A.Mus.A., A.L.A.A., subject librarian for History, resigned on 24 May 1985. Pam, who has worked as a reference librarian in the Information Services Department since March 1984, was recently appointed to the history position on a job-sharing basis with Margaret Hosking. Pam's expertise and considerable experience with historical and archival collections will be sadly missed in the Library.

We hope to find a replacement for Pam in the near future.

REMODELLING OF THE BARR SMITH LIBRARY

The western entrance and associated extension of the Library is nearing completion. Work on the interior areas of the extension is well advanced, with the only significant delay being in the mechanical work on the air conditioning system caused by financial insolvency of the company originally contracted to undertake the work. The bridge across to the western driveway near the Student Union is in place. However, delays in work on the western precinct upgrading project, a separate University landscaping project but vital for access to the entry bridge, means that it is unlikely that the new entrance will open until July. The northern and southern entrances will remain in use until that time. This delay will also cause some problems in the implementation of the Library's new loan system, CIRCON 2, scheduled also to come into operation in July, since the planning of new cabling and the loans area for the system assumed that the new entrance would be in use.

AIMS

The western entrance of the Library is Stage 1 of a building remodelling that has the following aims:

To provide a well sign-posted logical arrangement of services and collections, thus minimising user inconvenience and the need for Library staff directional assistance.

To increase the amount of open access shelving available to users.

To minimise horizontal and vertical traffic through the building, and to reduce disruption to users studying in the Library.

To enable the highest level of user services to be provided with the available number of Library staff.

To enable Library staff work flows to be organised in the most cost-effective ways.

To provide adequate open access shelving space so that a balanced expansion of the collections in each area can take place.

To provide an optimum balance of seating of different types located conveniently to the collections being used.

To minimise the deleterious effects on collections, users and Library staff of areas of the building that are not air conditioned.

To enable those collections and services requiring security to be both secure and serviced efficiently.

To provide as easy access for physically disabled people as is possible in such a complex old building.

COMMERCIALIZATION

The Executive Committee of the University recommended at a meeting in April that the area of Level 4 of the Library bordering on the Hughes Plaza be developed for commercial operations. This recommendation resulted from the Committee's conclusion that the University's available funding in the 1985/87 triennium for Library remodelling was approximately \$300,000 short of the funds required. Commercialisation was seen as a means to raise the remaining funds required for the remodelling from the rents paid by commercial operations, and for this annual income to be subsequently available for general University purposes. The Library Committee had previously expressed a preference for all the necessary funds to be found from University resources, but had concluded that if such funds could not be found by the University then the commercialisation proposal was the next best alternative.

However, the recommendation of the Executive Committee was rejected by the Education Committee approximately 2:1. In a wide-ranging debate the strong arguments against the Executive Committee proposal were seen to be doubts about the viability of extended commercial operations so close to North Terrace, possible difficulties for the commercial operations of the Student Union and the loss of space in a prime academic building. The Education Committee then endorsed the 'fall-back' proposal of the Executive Committee which would allow (from minor works funds known to be available), the consolidation of almost all User Services, apart from Special Collections, onto the new entrance Level 3 of the Library, but which would not provide for the consequent remodelling of Levels 1, 2 and 4 to allow for extension of open access shelving. At the same time the Executive Committee indicated that it believed that the upgrading of the Level 1 'basement' area under the Barr Smith Reading Room as a reader and open access collection area was of 'significant importance', and that it would examine further the means of raising the \$100,000 required.

On 26 April the Finance Committee discussed the issue in detail and recommended a compromise proposal involving the relocation of the three existing bank sites on campus, with the resiting of one bank in part of Level 4 of the Library. This proposal was seen as a means of producing sufficient funds for the greater part of the Library's remodelling, enabling the Library to expand its Special Collections area and significantly to increase open access space. It would also mean that the Library would lose only a much smaller area of space: 170 square metres in a building of over 15,000 square metres. Indeed, a preliminary investigation suggested that the proposal would actually allow a gain in usable space in the Library despite the loss of overall space. The Finance Committee proposal also met the fears regarding commercial operations as it provided only for a rearrangement of existing banking operations. At its meeting of 10 May the University Council was sufficiently attracted to the proposal to refer it to the Education Committee for further advice, before making a final decision.

The remodelling of the Library is an issue on which there are many views. As University Librarian my belief is that the Library's users will be best served by an investment in remodelling that is completed over the 1985/87 triennium. This would minimise disruption to readers and not place an extra load on a much reduced Library staff, who would be better employed on improving services than in extended building planning exercises and several moves of collections. Library staff could concentrate their efforts on providing an efficient building layout which would maximise the services that the Library can offer with the available staff, provide the maximum open access browsable space for collections and reduce the number of volumes to be sent to off-campus storage. If the funds needed to enable this to happen can be raised from within the University's current resources, then this should be done. If they cannot, then the Finance Committee's proposal, although not ideal, represents a most acceptable compromise for Library development, with a negligible loss of Library space, advantages for all Library services and a guaranteed source of funds for the University.

Council is expected to reach a final decision on the Library's remodelling project at its meeting on 12 July 1985.

Eric Wainwright

NEW SUBJECT LIBRARIAN

Dr Michael Draper, B.Sc. (Hons.) (N.S.W.), Ph.D. (James Cook), Dip.Lib. (N.S.W.) is the new subject librarian for Mathematics, Physics and Computing Science who will take up his position in the Information Services Department on 17 June 1985. Dr Draper is currently a Readers' Adviser in the Library of the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education, where he has worked since 1980. As Readers' Adviser to the School of Science he has, during the last five years, been contact librarian for the Department of Applied Physics and the Department of Mathematics and Computing, areas in which he will be working here. At Capricornia Mick is responsible for on-line searching - DIALOG, AUSINET and ABN - and has also been involved in reader education and book selection, skills which he will be able to develop further in the Barr Smith Library.

THE COVER:

One of the thousands of illustrations
from the Theatre Collection.